



National 4-H Curriculum
BU-08048

From Airedales to Zebras

Level 1



Veterinary Science Project Activity Guide

Grades 3–5

Name _____

County _____



From Airedales to Zebras

What's Inside?

For more on Veterinary Science,
check these other guides in this series.



Level 2 BU-08049

All Systems Go!

Chapter 1 The Normal Animal

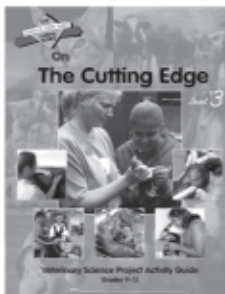
Files for the Future
All For One and One For All!
All Stressed Up with No Place to Go
The Defense Department

Chapter 2 Diseases, Pests and Problems

Biosecurity Blanket
What's Eating You?
Quality Counts!
Not-So-Secret Agents
When Good Feeds Go Bad

Chapter 3 Investigating Careers

Playing the Part
You Do the Math
A Shadow of Your Future Self
Not Special K, Special T
Where Do You Stand?



Level 3 BU-08050

On the Cutting Edge

Chapter 1 The Normal Animal

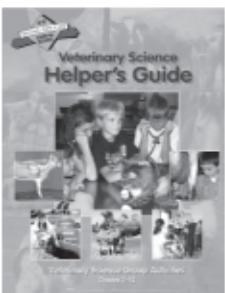
Bond, Animal Bond
TherioWHAT?
May the Best Gene Win
Swell Cell Organelles
Behave!

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Have You Lost Your Marbles?
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Could an Apple a Day Keep the Vet
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BU-08051

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The Normal Animal

A Breed Apart

If you are a veterinarian, you are considered to be an “expert” about animals. This includes knowing what breed an animal is. Sometimes someone will bring in a dog they have just adopted and ask “What breed do you think he is?” Other clients might ask “What breed of goat would you recommend?” Also, an animal’s breed must be entered on many health records or other forms, such as rabies vaccination certificates. This activity will help you learn to recognize some of the many different breeds of animals. Actually, this will be a lifelong activity!

Hop To It!

Collect all kinds of resource materials that include information—especially pictures—of many different breeds of animals. These materials could include breed magazines, posters, videos, books, Web sites, curricula, breed club information and other sources. Fill in as much of the chart below as you can. If you learned about other kinds of animals, write that information on another sheet of paper and staple it to this page.

Project Skill: Recognizing major breeds of different species of animals

Life Skill: Learning to learn - interprets and applies new knowledge and experiences

Educational Standard: NS.K-4.3

Life Science: The characteristics of organisms

Success Indicator: Identify and name at least three breeds of each major species of livestock and companion animals.



There sure are a lot of breeds to learn about!

Animal Breeds I Discovered

	Dogs	Cats	Cattle	Horses	Sheep	Your Choice	Your Choice
Breed #1							
Breed #2							
Breed #3							
Breed #4							
Breed #5							
Breed #6							
Breed #7							
Breed #8							
Breed #9							
Breed #10							

Take the Pulse

Discuss these questions with your helper.

Speak! (share what you did)

- What new breeds did you learn about?
- What breeds could you already identify?
- What breeds of animals have you owned?

Ferret it Out (process what's important)

- Why do veterinarians need to learn about animal breeds?
 - What things help you tell one kind of breed from another?
-
-
-

Bare Bones (generalize to your life)

- How could you learn to identify different kinds of other things, such as trees or insects?
-
-
-

Mooving Ahead (apply what you learned)

- What will you do to keep learning about other breeds?
 - How can you share your new knowledge with others?
-
-
-

Breeds



Scope this out!

St. Bernards are accredited with saving 2,500 lives in the Swiss Alps. One dog named "Barry" saved 40 people in his working career!

Resources:

The Ohio State University Learning Laboratory Kits

The Atlas of Dog Breeds of the World. (5th ed) Bonnie Wilcox & Chris Walkowicz. 1995. T.F.H. Publications, Inc. Neptune City, New Jersey.

Acknowledgement: Activity written by Susan Kerr.

Vital Information

So Many Breeds!

Wow—there sure are a lot of breeds to learn about! The sooner you start, the more breeds you'll know. It is fun to learn about different breeds. You may want to focus on learning about the breeds of one species of animal at a time.

Breed Resources

There are many good resources to help you. Go to your public library and check out a book on horse breeds, for example. Your Extension office will have helpful information, and there is a great deal of information about animal breeds on the Internet. Maybe your group would like to create a reference library that you can go back to again and again.

Why Know Breeds

There are important reasons to learn about different breeds of animals and their characteristics. As a veterinarian, people will ask for your opinion on the type of breed you would recommend for a certain role or lifestyle. For example, which breeds of sheep would be best for someone interested in producing and spinning fine wool? What breeds of dogs would be best for someone who lives in a city apartment? What breeds of horses would be best for someone who wants to do cross-country eventing? What breeds of parrots demand a great deal of attention? Also, some breeds are more prone to certain medical problems. As a veterinarian, you will need to keep these conditions in mind when you examine these breeds.



Booster Shots

1. Go to an animal show and practice identifying the breeds of animals that are there. Take photos or draw a picture of as many different breeds as you can, then give a report to your group.
2. Choose one species and create a notebook on its different breeds. Include photos, where the breed came from, usual size and color, personality traits and other information.

Basic Needs

Animal caregivers must take care of many details to make sure that their animals' needs are met. A comfortable animal is more likely to be healthy, grow and perform better. Besides, taking good care of your animal is just the right thing to do! This activity will help you recognize the importance of meeting animals' basic needs as you become a responsible animal caregiver.



Project Skill: Meeting animals' basic needs

Life Skill: Responsibility

Educational Standard: NS.K-4.3

Life Science: Organisms and environments

Success Indicator: Describe basic needs of animals.



Hop To It!

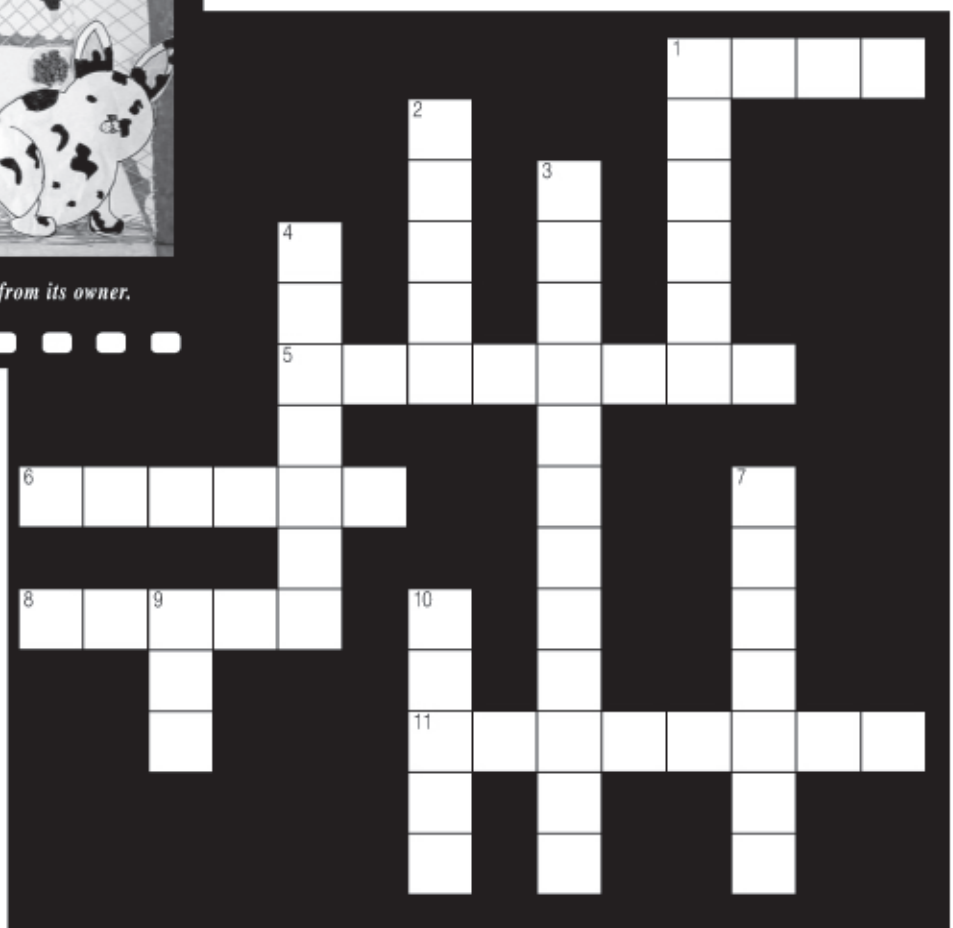
Investigate the basic needs of animals by completing the crossword puzzle below.

Across

1. Good things to eat
5. Activity and motion
6. Heat
8. The most important nutrient!
11. Brushing, bathing and combing

Down

1. Boundaries that protect and confine outdoor animals
2. Protection from sun's rays
3. Injections to prevent diseases
4. Protection from rain, sun, snow and predators
7. Straw, blankets, sawdust, newspapers or other cushioning and absorbent materials
9. Tender Loving Care (abbreviation)
10. Sunshine



Scope this out!

Most newborn mammals need a warmer environment than adult animals need. This is especially important for newborn piglets.



Take the Pulse



Discuss these questions with your helper.

Speak! (share what you did)

- What new words did you learn while doing the crossword puzzle?
- What were the hardest and easiest parts of the puzzle? Why?

Ferret it Out (process what's important)

- What are an animal's basic needs?
 - Why is it important for you to take responsibility for meeting your animal's needs?
-
-

Bare Bones (generalize to your life)

- How does learning about the basic needs of animals help you understand the basic needs of other creatures such as insects, plants and humans?
-
-

Mooving Ahead (apply what you learned)

- How will understanding animals' basic needs help you take better care of your animals?
 - How can you teach others about animals' needs?
-
-



Booster Shots

1. Talk to livestock producers, veterinarians, or pet store employees about caring for animals. Ask them how they keep animals clean and comfortable and how they provide fresh food and water. Make a summary and share it with your group.
2. Make a scrapbook of different types of housing for all kinds of animals, including pets and livestock. Show your scrapbook to your helper.

Acknowledgement: Activity written by Steve Schafer.

Vital Information



Home Sweet Home

As an animal caregiver, it is your responsibility to provide what your animal needs for a comfortable and long life. Make sure you know what your animal's needs are **BEFORE** you bring it home! Things to think about include:

1. **Shelter, housing and fences** to protect animals from weather and predators.
 - Housing must keep animals safe and provide protection from heat, sun and bad weather. It should provide plenty of room, have fresh air and clean bedding and be well drained.
 - Many pets live indoors and are comfortable at typical household temperatures. Reptiles and some birds need additional warmth. Pets living outdoors may need extra heat or cooling on very cold or hot days. A three-sided roofed shed is usually enough protection for livestock, but in very cold weather, additional heat may be needed from extra bedding or heaters. When shade is not able to keep animals comfortable on hot days, a fan, sprinkler or misting system may be needed.

Safety Note

To avoid fire hazards, an adult should set up and supervise the use of barn heaters, fans and sprinkler/misting systems.

2. **Food and water** to provide necessary nutrients for growth, maintenance and activity.
 - Water is the most important nutrient for all animals. Check and clean equipment every day to make sure animals are receiving fresh water.
 - Follow your veterinarian's advice about what, when and how much to feed your animal. Make sure food dishes are clean and the food is good quality, not spoiled or moldy.
3. **Medical care** to insure good health, protection from diseases and treatment of illnesses.
 - Animals need deworming, vaccinations, hoof and nail trimming, dental care and other routine and emergency care. Owners can do some of these procedures and veterinarians can do all of them.
4. **Attention and companionship** from human caretakers, including routine grooming and care.
 - Animals rely on their caretakers for grooming and companionship. This attention helps owners notice when animals are sick or hurt.
5. **A clean, low-stress environment** to help prevent illness and anxiety.
 - The environment should be as safe, quiet and clean as possible. Remove your animal's wastes, change its bedding, keep the air fresh, prevent overcrowding and control flies and other pests.
6. **Opportunities for exercise and rest** to both maintain healthy muscles and bones and relax.
 - Exercise helps animals grow and develop properly, keeps their muscles and bones healthy and keeps them from getting bored or too fat. Like you, they also need time to rest.

Fur and Feathers as Friends—and More



Project Skill: Investigating the roles of animals

Life Skill: Decision making

Educational Standard: NS.K-4.3

Life Science: Diversity and adaptations of organisms

Success Indicator: Explain the different roles of animals.

When you think of an animal, what is the first thing that comes into your mind? A furry friend? A fearless protector? A fun ride? A tasty meal? Animals are all of these and more! Animals have been helping people for thousands of years. This activity will help you investigate the importance of animals to humans, which will help you understand why we need to take good care of them.



Hop To It!

In the table below, put a checkmark in each column that matches the role of that type of animal. Each animal may have more than one role. You may also be able to think of other animals to add to the chart. Be sure to have

an example for each role that you checked. When you are done, compare your chart with the charts of others in your group, or show it to your helper. Discuss any differences between your ideas.

Roles of Animals					
Animal	Breed	Pet/ Companion	Pleasure/ Entertainment	Food	Work
Horse breed #1					
Horse breed #2					
Cow					
Sheep					
Dog breed #1					
Dog breed #2					
Bird					
Cat					
Chicken					
Rabbit					
Dolphin					
Pig					
Goat					
Gerbil					
Fish					
Others					

Discuss these questions with your helper.

Speak! (share what you did)

- Where did you find your information?
- What new roles for animals did you discover?

Ferret it Out (process what's important)

- How does an animal's role depend on its breed or species?

Bare Bones (generalize to your life)

- How do we decide what roles people have?
- What roles have your animals had?

Mooving Ahead (apply what you learned)

- How can you use what you have learned to choose the right kind of animal for your needs?



Scope this out!

In some countries, elephants help people harvest trees for lumber. Canaries were used in mines to alert workers when poisonous gases were present. Dolphins are being used by the military to detect underwater mines.



Relationship • Companions • Sentinels

More Than Pets

From early times, humans and animals have had very special relationships. Animals have been companions as well as sources of food, such as meat and milk. In some cultures, animals live inside to help keep people warm. Many have helped humans work, too. Examples of working animals include:

Service animals—such as search/rescue, seeing eye, hearing ear or other service/guide animals

Fiber—produced by sheep, goats, alpacas, llamas, camels, dogs and rabbits

Draft and pack animals (carry or pull loads)—horses, mules, donkeys, burros, elephants, llamas, goats, camels, cattle and dogs

Brush and weed control—livestock keep unwanted plants under control

Hunting animals—some dog breeds, falcons and cats

Riding animals—horses, camels, mules, donkeys and burros used for pleasure trails, jumping, travel and endurance rides

Entertainment—rodeo, circus, movies and racing

Sentinels—birds or animals used to detect the presence of certain diseases in an area

Herding dogs—such as Border Collies and Blue Heelers

Guard animals—dogs, donkeys, llamas, horses, burros, geese and guinea fowl that protect livestock and property

Religious importance—cattle are sacred in some cultures. Salmon, eagles, deer, bear, porcupines and other animals are sacred in some Native American cultures.



Booster Shots

1. Make an educational poster about all the roles of the animal of your choice.
2. Write a story from an animal's point of view about all the roles it has. Share your story with your group.

Get Growin'

You have changed a great deal since you were born, haven't you? All living things progress through stages of growth and change just like you. Different animals have different life stages. Some young animals look much like their parents and do not change very much as they grow up, yet other young animals look nothing like their parents. This activity will help you investigate the interesting life stages of animals and understand their differences.

Hop To It!

Your task is to discover, watch and record differences in the life stages of animals. Find two animals of the same species at different life stages. For example, find a kitten and an adult cat or a calf and an adult cow. Perhaps you own an animal at one stage in life. Animals at other life stages could be found at the home of a relative, neighbor or friend; a pet store; a zoo; a veterinarian's office; or the local Humane Society. Observe the two animals and answer the questions in the chart below about the baby

Rx

Project Skill: Recognizing that animals develop through different stages of life

Life Skill: Understanding differences

Educational Standard: NS.K-4.3

Life Science: Life cycles of organisms

Success Indicator: Describe how animals develop in stages with unique characteristics.



What is a baby alpaca called?

and adult life stages. You might have to ask the pet's caregiver some of the questions or look on the Internet to find the answers.

Baby vs. Adult

Animal species I chose _____

This species is born **LIVE** or **FROM AN EGG**
(circle one)

Does the animal need parental care? ☐ Yes ☐ No

	Baby	Adult
What is this species called?		
What does this species eat?		
Where does the food come from?		
Where does this species live?		
How does it act? (How much energy does it have? What does it like to do?)		

Discuss these questions with your helper.

Speak! (share what you did)

- What two animals did you compare?
- What did you enjoy about exploring the life stages of animals?

Ferret it Out (process what's important)

- How does an animal change as it develops through the stages of life?

Bare Bones (generalize to your life)

- What life stages have you experienced?
- Why do people change as they move through different stages of life?

Mooving Ahead (apply what you learned)

- How will what you learned help prepare you for the changes ahead?
- How will what you learned help you care for animals better?

Species • Reptiles • Amphibians • Mammals • Birds • Cold-blooded • Parental • Diorama • Warm-blooded



Animal Facts

The life stages of all animals include birth, youth, adulthood and death. Adults are fully developed and able to reproduce. Young or immature animals are those between birth and adulthood. They look more and more like adults with time. Here are short descriptions of different types of animals.

Mammals

Mammals are animals that nurse their young and have fur or hair. They are warm-blooded. Cows, horses, pigs and sheep are examples.

Birds

Birds' bodies are more or less completely covered with feathers. Not all flying animals are birds, and not all birds can fly. The fastest running bird is the ostrich, but it cannot fly. It is also the largest bird. Bats are flying animals.

Amphibians (am-FIB-ee-ins)

Amphibians are animals that begin their lives in the water breathing with gills; as they mature they develop lungs, breathe air and live on land. Amphibians include frogs, toads, newts and salamanders. Amphibians usually lay their eggs in water.

Reptiles

Reptiles are a group of animals that have scales, breathe air and usually lay eggs. They are cold-blooded. Reptiles include snakes, lizards, crocodiles, alligators, turtles and tortoises.



Booster Shots

1. Visit a farm, zoo, pet store, humane society or veterinarian's office and identify animals in the different stages of life. Make a list of the different animals you saw and describe their stage of life.
2. Diagram the life stages of one or two of your favorite animals. Illustrate and label the life stages.
3. Make a diorama showing the life stages of one of your favorite animals.



Systems Check

What makes an animal able to run, play, work, eat and breathe? The same things that make you able to do these things: body systems! A healthy body depends on many different organs working together in systems. As you learn about animals' bodies in this activity, you'll also be learning about how your own body systems work.

Hop To It!

Find and circle the Word Bank words in the Word Search puzzle below. As you find them, you'll be learning the names of body systems and parts! Next, complete the word match activity by drawing a line from the organ to the body system it belongs with.

Note: a few organs can go with more than one body system.

Body Systems and Parts Word Search

C M U S C U L O S K E L E T A L
A B R K A G O K E T N N C I F U
R L O U R E D A H N D C E P L N
D I G E S T I V E W O M R S T G
I M E C P J N E A B C S A T I O
O A N I B O T H R O R M E O N K
V P I Q S L E F T N I E R M E T
A N T E D I G L U S N T X A L P
S D A M F N U D J C E S I C K Y
C K L D R E M S O W L Y S H I R
U C I O P N E R V O U S E O D M
L M U N E D N A L G T Y B O N E
A H D E P M T Y C U K D Z U E P
R E S P I R A T O R Y O T R Y W
O A G U C E R A D S N B I U R M
H R I T A F Y B O E M U S C L E

Word Bank

Body systems	Gland	Nervous
Bone	Heart	Nose
Cardiovascular	Integumentary	Respiratory
Digestive	Kidney	Skin
Ear	Lung	Stomach
Endocrine	Muscle	Urogenital
Eye	Musculoskeletal	

CatNips



Why did the **skeleton** stay in the closet?

Because it had **no body** to go out with!



Project Skill: Discovering body systems and organs

Life Skill: Organizing information—selects appropriate categories.

Educational Standard: NS.5–8.3
Life Science: Structure and function in living systems

Success Indicator: Name the body's systems and organs.

Word Match

Draw a line to match the organ to the system.

System	Organ
Cardiovascular	Arteries
	Bladder
	Brain
	Ears
Digestive	Esophagus
	Eyes
	Glands
Endocrine	Hair
	Heart
	Intestines
Integument	Kidney
	Liver
	Lungs
Musculoskeletal	Lymphatics
	Mouth
	Muscle
Nervous	Nerves
	Nose
	Ovary
Respiratory	Rectum
	Skeleton
	Skin
Sense	Spleen
	Stomach
	Testicle
Urogenital	Trachea
	Uterus
	Veins



Discuss these questions with your helper.

Speak! (share what you did)

- What body systems did you learn about?
- Which body system do you find most interesting? Why?

Ferret it Out (process what's important)

- Why are body systems important to an animal's life?
- How did the word games help you learn about body systems?

Bare Bones (generalize to your life)

- How does learning about animals' body systems help you learn about your own body?
- What problems have you seen in different body systems of animals?

Mooving Ahead (apply what you learned)

- How will knowing the body systems help you as an animal caregiver?
- How can you learn more about body systems and organs?

Organ • System • Esophagus • Lymphatic • Integument • Trachea • Pigmentation
• Stethoscope • Excrete • Oxygen • Carbon dioxide • Reproduce • Secrete



Additional Resources:

Magic School Bus: Explores the Senses—Joanna Cole, Bruce Degan

Acknowledgements:

The Merck Veterinary Manual

Textbook of Veterinary Anatomy; Dyce, Sack, Wensing; W. B. Saunders ©1987

Acknowledgement: Activity written by Geri Parsons and Cleon Kimberling.

What Makes You Tick?

The **cardiovascular system** is responsible for sending blood everywhere in the body. It is made up of the heart (the pump), veins, arteries and lymphatics (the pipes) and spleen (a filter and storage area for the blood).

The **digestive system** takes in, breaks down, absorbs and excretes food. It is made up of the mouth (entrance and crusher), esophagus (food tunnel), stomach (holding area), liver (filter), pancreas (digestive juice factory), intestines (squiggly tunnels) and the rectum (exit).

The **integumentary system** is responsible for protection and pigmentation. It is made up of skin, hair, glands, claws, hooves and horns.

The **musculoskeletal system** is responsible for body movement and support. It is made up of muscles, ligaments, tendons, cartilage and bones.

The **nervous system** aids the body in sensation (how you feel) and response (how you react). It is made up of the brain, spinal cord and nerves.

The **respiratory system** supplies oxygen to the body and gets rid of carbon dioxide. It includes the nostrils, nose, sinuses, trachea and lungs.

The **urogenital system** filters and removes wastes and also helps an animal reproduce. Major parts include the kidneys, bladder, uterus, ovaries and testicles.

The **endocrine system** is made up of several glands that make and secrete hormones into the bloodstream. Hormones control growth, reproduction and many important functions.

The **sense organs** are what the animal uses to see, hear, smell, touch and taste. These include the eyes, ears, nose, skin and tongue.



Booster Shots

1. Research the normal heart rate, respiratory rate and body temperature of three different species of animals. Write these down and discuss what is similar and different about them with your helper.
2. Borrow a stethoscope and listen to your heart, then listen to an animal's heart. What did you notice? How are they similar? How are they different? Share what you learned with your helper.

Body Language, Animal Style

Often, people don't understand that their animal is trying to tell them something through its behavior. It could be ill, stressed, excited, afraid or many other things. Observing your animal and how it behaves will help you make decisions about its care and health. Through this activity, you will compare animals' behaviors at different times and learn why they act certain ways. You will also learn when to be concerned about your animal's health based on how it is behaving.

Hop To It!

Observe some animals for half a day or so. If you don't have an animal, ask a neighbor or visit a farm, park, animal shelter, wildlife preserve, kennel or zoo. Call ahead of time to ask permission; also ask what time would be best for you to observe without interfering with normal routines. Observe and compare what you see with three different animals. Watch them at rest,

during feeding time and at play. Listen and watch for vocalization, posturing, changes in hair or feathers, etc. as they respond to different stimuli. Using books, the Internet and discussions with others, investigate the typical behavior of different species and breeds.

Fill in the chart below with your observations.

My Animal Behavior Observations

	Animal #1	Animal #2	Animal #3
Species (dog, cat, horse, etc.)			
Animal's name or number			
Animal's age			
How many other animals in the room or pen?			
Amount of time observed			
Amount of time animal rested			
Amount of time animal played			
Number of times animal ate			
Number of times animal drank			
When the animal was calm and alert...	—	—	—
What was the position of its head?			
What was the position of its ears?			
What was its body posture?			
How did the animal react to noise?			
How did the animal react when spoken to kindly?			
How did the animal react when a stranger entered the room or pen?			
How did the animal react to a familiar person entering the room or pen?			
How did the animal behave when it was frightened or angry?			

Rx

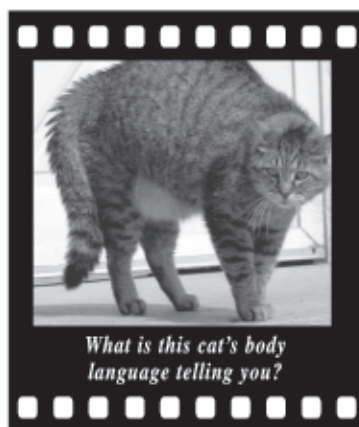
Project Skill: Investigating animal behavior

Life Skill: Communication

Educational Standard: NS.5–8.3

Life Science: Regulation and behavior

Success Indicator: Identify five different behaviors in an animal.



Discuss these questions with your helper.

Speak! (share what you did)

- What animals did you observe? Where were they and what time did you observe them?

Ferret it Out (process what's important)

- How does an animal show how it is feeling through its behavior?
- Why is it important to understand animal behavior?

Bare Bones (generalize to your life)

- How does your animal react to you when you are happy, excited, mad or sad?
- How do people use body language to communicate how they are feeling?

Mooving Ahead (apply what you learned)

- How can you use what you learned to lower your chances of getting hurt by an animal?

Euthanize • Environment • Aggressive • Posture • Stimuli • Vocalization



Tell, Tail Signs

An animal's behavior is shown through body language. The animal's overall posture is a sign of whether it feels good, sick, aggressive or scared. A healthy animal will groom itself, eat, respond to stimuli, move around and be alert. Its eyes will be bright, ears erect and nose slightly moist; there will be no discharge from any of these areas.

Nervous Animals

If an animal is nervous, it may twitch its skin or swish its tail a lot. It may groom itself more than normal. An angry animal may flatten its ears down, fluff its hair or feathers, crouch, growl or hiss, bare its teeth, stamp its hooves, kick or snort. These signs are warnings for you to watch out! Some dogs bark and wag their tails when happy and excited, but others do the same things when they are agitated and ready to bite.

Sick Animals

A sick animal will be less active and may even hide. Its ears may droop, it will be less responsive and it is less likely to eat or drink a normal amount. It's important to know your animal's normal behavior so you will know to investigate when it behaves differently.

Behavior

Behavior is an important thing for veterinarians to consider. How animals act can give important clues about their health. Also, owners often ask veterinarians questions about their animals' behavior. One of the most common reasons for an animal to be left at a shelter or even euthanized is unacceptable behavior. How can you help ensure that your animal behaves well? Behavior is a product of genetics, environment and experiences, so...

- Select the right species and breed for the space and time you have to give it
- Choose an animal whose parents behave well
- Take the time to train your animal; if you don't have time to train it, you don't have enough time for an animal
- Provide a safe, unchanging, low-stress environment for your animal



Booster Shots

1. Read about Jane Goodall's work studying chimpanzee behavior. Tell your helper some things that Dr. Goodall discovered.
2. Teach your pet a new trick. How did your pet react as you were teaching it? Keep a journal of this activity and share it with your helper.
3. If you can do so safely, observe the behavior of wild animals in their natural environment. Compare their behavior to that of their nearest tame relative. How are these species' behaviors alike and different?



Scope this out!

People take advantage of cats' natural instinct to cover their wastes when we litter train them. Likewise, we housebreak dogs by taking advantage of their instinct to keep their "den" free from wastes.

Horses cannot see directly in front of them. How does this explain some of their behavior?

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